

a plurality of skating wheels rotatably mounted on the frame rearward of the slot for rotation in a common plane,  
at least one counter-rotatable braking device rotatably attached to the frame approximately in line with the axes of the slots, the braking device comprising means to allow rotation of the device in one direction and to resist rotation in the other direction, an axle slidably mounted in the slots,  
and at least one braking wheel mounted on the axle, such that the ~~counter-rotatable~~ braking device, the braking wheel, and the skating wheels are in a common plane of rotation and the braking wheel contacts the braking device at a point approximately vertically above the contact point between the braking wheel and the skating surface when both the front skating wheel and the braking wheel are in contact with the skating surface,  
wherein the braking device is oriented to allow rotation of the braking wheel against the skating surface in the forward skating direction and to resist rotation of the braking wheel against the skating surface in the reverse direction; and wherein the braking device having a coefficient of friction with the braking wheel of less than the coefficient of friction between the braking wheel and the skating surface.

#### Response

Applicant has amended claims 1-4, 8, 10, 11, 15, 24, 25, and 29 to more particularly describe and claim applicants' invention, including the feature that the braking device provides an anti-skid braking action by having a coefficient of friction with the braking wheel of less than the coefficient of friction between the braking wheel

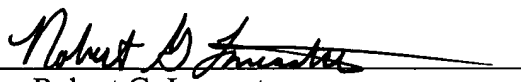
and the skating surface, and not for any reason related to patentability. Additionally, claim 15 has been rewritten to correct a spelling error as noted by the Examiner. No new matter is added by this amendment. Applicant submits that these claims as amended are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims of the present application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 22-25, and 29 remain pending in this application.

Although the Examiner asserts that the limitation of claim 8 of 25 degrees is not supported by the specification, applicant respectfully points out that paragraph 22, cited by the Examiner, the slot 34 is identified as having “a rearward inclination of approximately ten degrees”, and the specification further points out that “substantial variations in the inclination of slot 34 are possible.” Applicant submits that a variation of approximately 15 degrees from a given “inclination of approximately ten degrees” is well within the understanding of “substantial variations in the inclination of slot 34” to one of ordinary skill in the art of roller skate design.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the basis of the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and § 112. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned via telephone to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Robert G. Lancaster  
Registration No. 43,736  
BRYAN CAVE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square  
211 North Broadway, Suite 3600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2750  
(314) 259-2000 (Telephone)  
(314) 259-2020 (Facsimile)